

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 24, 1875, with transcript

Home, October 24th, 1875. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

The enclosed arrived last night. The cutting referred to was not in the envelope. It is obvious that the Brantford article with its "paper" is what the writer has seen. I have sent a card to Mr. Stanley giving him your address. Of course you will reply to his letter. I am very glad I did not see G. B. or you would evidently have attributed any failure with him to me! Don't be ready to judge harshly and unjustly! The very supposition that I would put any impediments in your way is discreditable to you. When your telegraphic scheme was in embryo and you required to study up the subject and to devise instruments, and devote more of your time to the work, I thought I said that your agreement with Messrs. Sanders and Hubbard should have included a fair remuneration for the time taken from your profession. Now that the invention is a perfected one, on the eve of being ready for use, such a stipulation is uncalled for and unwise, as it looks like a subsidy for experiments only, which may or may not be successful-and detracts from the accomplished merits of the invention. I think the proposition under existing circumstances, would tend to repel a business man. Had I seen G. B. I should have counteracted the impression which your own stipulation as I fancy, was calculated to produce, and have told him that the invention was in fact accomplished, and not in any way dependent on further 2 experiments for its practical application. Put a coat of charity over your porcupine quills in future! The Philadelphia Institution will of course accept your offer. I say nothing further in reference to your project of leasing rooms, resigning your chair, and locking up your professional door. I hope you understand what you are about in these matters. I do not.

We are all well and the happier to receive such good reports of your health. We have had a week of delightful "Indian Summer". Your Uncle and Aunt are talking of a trip to Bermuda

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next month, to old Mr. Hyland a cousin (or Uncle) of Ellen's. Let me know when and what you hear from G. B. All join me in love to you.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.